

## Michigan Energy Public Forum

Thank you, *NextEnergy*, for hosting the Governor's, Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Energy Office, Michigan Public Service Commission's "***Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions.***"

Thank you, Chairman Quackenbush, and Director Bakka for helping to inform us and for soliciting feedback and input.

I serve on the Board of Greenacres-Woodward Civic Association, a community located in Detroit. Our community and our Board of Directors have:

- Increased energy efficiency in our neighborhood homes, with the help of SE Michigan Regional Energy Office, THAW, and BetterBuildings for Michigan. Energy audits led to retrofitting homes built in the '20's, '30's, as well as newer ones.
- Worked to install in our Hyde Park-- the city's first solar-powered park lights
- Promoted and helped win curbside recycling in our area, which is now over 50%. This has saved materials from being burned, retrieving their worth. **Regarding jobs: for every job in a landfill or at an incinerator, 4 are created in recycling.**

In answer to the question: "To date, what has been Michigan's cost of renewables, and how has that impacted rates paid by residential, commercial, and industrial customers?" (NOTE: Your category of 'renewables' presently includes incineration, which I have addressed below.)

- ✓ The citizens of Detroit have paid in excess of \$1.2 billion in costs and debt servicing for the Detroit incinerator. At the time, we had to pay high trash disposal fees of over \$150/ton. Detroiters could have saved over \$55M in just one year—if the incinerator had not been built.
- ✓ Subsidies and policy incentives for waste incinerators in the U.S. result in: a) costly burden for taxpayers and local rate payers, b) supporting an industry with a history of environmental racism and c) releases of dioxins, mercury, and other harmful pollutants.
- ✓ Additionally, incineration of trash is a costly form of energy generation- stealing materials that have value to make small amounts of energy (due to the low calorific value of the waste).
- ✓ Besides being wasteful, incinerators are NOT a category of "*renewable energy*," and should be removed from such. What is burned is not renewable. It is finite, both in production and source.
- ✓ Regarding jobs: for every job in a landfill or at an incinerator, 4 are created in recycling.

Thank you again for soliciting input on Michigan's Energy Future.

Sincerely,

Karen Hammer,  
Greenacres-Woodward Civic Association  
Board of Directors